Overbridge at Morappur

1407. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work on railway overbridge at Morappur railway station in Dharmapuri station has not started although the matching grant has clearly been given by Tamil Nadu Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the work regarding construction of overbridge will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The work on Bridge proper *i.e.* across track has also been taken up and sub-structure work is complete. There has been delay in works due to failure of the Agency fixed to execute the work. Tenders for fixing new Agency have been opened. The work is likely to be completed in Railway portion by the end of financial year 2005-06.

Acute shortage of drinking water at railway stations

1408. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of drinking water at various railway stations being faced by 98 per cent of the passengers; and

(b) the steps Government have taken to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Indian Railways have more than 8000 stations. Railways endeavour is to provide drinking water to passengers at all stations. Some small stations do not have adequate water source either due to absence of water supply from municipality or presence of brackish water, inadequate ground water yield from hand pumps. Further, even at some of those stations where piped/hand pump supply exists, water scarcity comes up in summer due to lesser supplies by municipality, lowering in ground water level etc. and increased demand. In such cases,